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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
(OAKLAND DIVISION)

IN RE: CATHODE RAY TUBE (CRT)  
ANTITRUST LITIGATION

Case No. 3:07-cv-05944-JST  
MDL No. 1917

This Document Relates to:

ALL INDIRECT PURCHASER ACTIONS

**DEFENDANTS' OPPOSITION TO  
MOTION TO VACATE ORDERS  
AND JUDGMENT CERTIFYING  
SETTLEMENT CLASS,  
APPROVING SETTLEMENT AND  
AWARDING ATTORNEYS' FEES  
(DKT. 4712, 4717, 4740)**

Date: September 4, 2019

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Courtroom: 6, 2nd Floor

Judge: Hon. Jon S. Tigar

DEFENDANTS' OPPOSITION TO MOTION TO VACATE ORDERS AND JUDGMENT CERTIFYING  
SETTLEMENT CLASS, APPROVING SETTLEMENT AND AWARDING ATTORNEYS' FEES (DKT. 4712,  
4717, 4740)

Case No. 3:07-cv-05944-JST, MDL No. 1917

1 **I. INTRODUCTION**

2 Acting now to vacate this Court's prior orders certifying the settlement classes,  
3 approving the settlements, and awarding attorneys' fees — even before court-ordered  
4 mediation is given a chance to succeed — will not accomplish justice for any of the parties;  
5 rather, it will wreak havoc on that mediation, a delicate process currently being administered  
6 by Magistrate Judge Corley. Because the ORS Plaintiffs cannot satisfy the requirements of  
7 Rule 60(b)(6), ORS Plaintiffs' Motion to Vacate Orders Certifying Settlement Class,  
8 Approving Settlement, and Awarding Attorneys' Fees (the "Motion to Vacate") should be  
9 denied or, in the alternative, held in abeyance until Magistrate Judge Corley completes her  
10 work.

11 As directed by this Court's order referring the matter to mediation (ECF No. 5427),  
12 the Defendants and Counsel for the 22 certified settlement-only statewide damages classes  
13 (the "22 States"), appeared before Magistrate Judge Corley on July 26, 2019 to seek a  
14 negotiated resolution to amend and preserve, in some form, the original IPP settlement  
15 agreements. Mindful of the Court's instruction for the parties to be pragmatic, the parties  
16 negotiated in good faith and reached a settlement-in-principle. The settlement-in-principle,  
17 carefully overseen by Magistrate Judge Corley, constitutes an important step in resolving this  
18 long-running case because, once finalized and if approved by the Court, it will release the  
19 claims of the 22 States, but will not release the claims of the IPP claimants in the ORS or  
20 NRS Subclasses. In light of the settlement-in-principle, which does not impact either the  
21 ORS or NRS Subclasses, and the ongoing mediation process involving the ORS Plaintiffs,  
22 the Court should not grant the Motion to Vacate at this time. Refraining from granting the  
23 motion will ensure that the practical process outlined by this Court proceeds apace, while  
24 allowing the IPPs in the 22 States and the Defendants sufficient time to finalize their  
25 settlement-in-principle and to submit the amended settlement agreements for the Court's  
26 review. Granting the motion would unnecessarily risk further uncertainty, upheaval, and  
27 delay, and would be incorrect under the law.

1 The ORS Plaintiffs move the Court to vacate the orders approving the settlements,  
 2 class certification, and attorneys' fees under Rule 60(b)(6) of the Federal Rules of Civil  
 3 Procedure, but their motion is conspicuously barren of authority justifying the application of  
 4 that rule here. Rule 60(b)(6) is only appropriate to "accomplish justice" in "*extraordinary*  
 5 *circumstances.*" *Liljeberg v. Health Servs. Acquisition Corp.*, 486 U.S. 847, 864 (1988)  
 6 (emphasis added). In their motion, the ORS Plaintiffs identify the first requirement to invoke  
 7 the rule, but are conveniently silent as to the second. Mot. at 7. Unsurprisingly, such  
 8 "extraordinary circumstances" are not present here. Moreover, granting the Motion to  
 9 Vacate would not "accomplish justice."

10 Accordingly, the ORS Plaintiffs do not have grounds to invoke Rule 60(b)(6), the  
 11 Motion to Vacate should not be granted, and the parties should continue to pursue court-  
 12 ordered mediation.

## 13 II. RELEVANT BACKGROUND

14 From January through April 2015, the Defendants entered into settlement agreements  
 15 with all the IPPs to resolve this long-running dispute. *See* ECF No. 3862-1, Ex. A (Philips  
 16 Settlement Agreement) (executed on January 26, 2015); ECF No. 3862-2, Ex. B (Panasonic  
 17 Settlement Agreement) (executed on January 28, 2015); ECF No. 3862-3, Ex. C (Hitachi  
 18 Settlement Agreement) (executed on February 19, 2015); ECF No. 3862-4, Ex. D (Toshiba  
 19 Settlement Agreement) (executed on March 6, 2015); ECF No. 3862-5, Ex. E (Samsung SDI  
 20 Settlement Agreement) (executed on April 1, 2015); ECF No. 3876-1, Ex. A (Thomson  
 21 Settlement Agreement) (executed on June 10, 2015). The ORS Plaintiffs wrongly assert that  
 22 the *settlements* "provided for a recovery to only a subset of repealer state class members" and  
 23 released the ORS consumers' repealer-state damages claims "for nothing." Mot. at 1, 2, 6.  
 24 That is wrong. *None* of the settlements released *any* claims "without consideration." The  
 25 Defendants collectively paid \$576.75 million in consideration for the global releases. And  
 26 each of the settlement agreements expressly provided for the IPPs to separately determine an  
 27 appropriate plan of allocation, subject to Court approval. *See, e.g.,* Toshiba Settlement  
 28 Agreement ¶ 20 ("[T]he Settlement Fund shall be distributed in accordance with a plan to be

1 submitted at the appropriate time by Plaintiffs, subject to approval by the Court. In no event  
2 shall any Toshiba Releasee have any responsibility . . . whatsoever with respect to the . . .  
3 distribution . . . of the Settlement Fund . . .”). In any event, contrary to the ORS Plaintiffs’  
4 argument (Mot. at 8), worthless claims may be released without consideration. *See* Def.  
5 Response to Mot. Appoint. Interim Co-Lead Counsel, ECF No. 5468 at 11-13.

6 On May 29, 2015, the IPPs submitted the plan of allocation, which provided that  
7 indirect purchasers in the 22 States would be able to make claims on the \$576.75 million  
8 settlement fund, but claimants from all other states would not. *See* IPPs’ Mot. for Prelim.  
9 Approval of Class Action Settlements at 26-29, ECF No. 3861.

10 On July 7, 2016, the Court granted final approval of the settlements and allocation  
11 plan (ECF No. 4712), and on July 14, 2016, entered a Final Judgment of Dismissal with  
12 Prejudice as to the Defendants (ECF No. 4717).

13 After the ORS Plaintiffs (and objectors from NRS) appealed the grant of final  
14 approval and the order granting attorneys’ fees to IPP Counsel to the Ninth Circuit, on  
15 February 13, 2019, the Ninth Circuit remanded this matter back to this Court. Order at 12, *In*  
16 *re: Cathode Ray Tube (CRT) Antitrust Litig.*, No. 16-16373 (9th Cir. Feb. 13, 2019)  
17 (“Remand Order”), ECF No. 252 (issuing a limited remand “to the District Court to  
18 reconsider its order on [settlement-only] class certification and settlement approval” insofar  
19 as the damages claims of purchasers in Massachusetts, Missouri, and New Hampshire were  
20 released without compensation). The ORS Plaintiffs expressly sought the vacatur of this  
21 Court’s final approval, but the Ninth Circuit decided that it would “not vacate the order at  
22 this time.” *Id.* (Defendants maintain that the Ninth Circuit’s mandate was limited, and that  
23 under the rule-of-mandate doctrine, the Court lacks jurisdiction to reconsider the settlements,  
24 except as to the IPPs in Massachusetts, Missouri, and New Hampshire. *See, e.g.*, ECF No.  
25 5468 at 8-9.)

26 On April 9, 2019, the Court held a case management conference where it stated that it  
27 would appoint separate counsel for the three Omitted Repealer States (“ORS”), allowed  
28 motions for the appointment of subclass representatives and counsel for the Non-Repealer

1 States (“NRS”), as well as for six additional ORS, and stated an intention to direct the parties  
 2 to mediation. ECF No. 5444 (Apr. 9, 2019 Hrg. Tr.) at 5:8-10 (“As I’ll say in a second, I  
 3 think we need to get counsel for the omitted repealer state plaintiffs; and we need to get  
 4 everybody to somebody like Judge Corley . . . .”); *see also id.* at 4:19-22, 16:21-17:5, 18:25-  
 5 19:5, 19:8-13. During that same case management conference, the Court urged the parties to  
 6 bring a settlement before the Court so that it could assess anew whether it “passes muster”  
 7 and expressed an interest in finding a way to “finish” the case. *Id.* at 6:24-7:1 (“I think you  
 8 bring me a settlement. . . . You bring me one and then I decide whether it passes muster or  
 9 not.”); *id.* at 27:11-12 (“I like the case. I mean, I wish I could figure how to finish it.”).  
 10 Since that time, the IPPs in the 22 States and the Defendants have been working to do just  
 11 that.

12 On April 9, 2019, the Court also referred the matter to mediation before Magistrate  
 13 Judge Corley. ECF No. 5427.

14 On June 6, 2019, the Court held a hearing on the ORS and NRS Plaintiffs’ Motions to  
 15 Appoint Subclass Counsel (ECF Nos. 5451, 5459) and to Vacate or Clarify the 2010  
 16 Stipulation and Order (ECF No. 5469). During that hearing, the Court urged the parties to be  
 17 pragmatic in finding a resolution to the case, and expressed a hope that the parties understand  
 18 that resolving the case “sooner rather than later is in everybody’s interest.” ECF No. 5499  
 19 (June 6, 2019 Hrg. Tr.) at 45:10-15.

20 On July 3, 2019, the Court appointed counsel for the ORS and NRS Subclasses and  
 21 vacated the 2010 Stipulation and Order. ECF No. 5518. Since that time, ORS Subclass  
 22 Counsel and the Defendants have been negotiating a proposed schedule for the ORS  
 23 Plaintiffs to pursue their claims. Concurrently, the parties contacted Magistrate Judge Corley  
 24 to apprise her of relevant issues and to set a schedule for the court-ordered mediation.

25 In less than two months, the IPPs in the 22 States and the Defendants have  
 26 participated in two full-day, in-person mediation sessions before Magistrate Judge Corley, on  
 27 May 31, 2019, and on July 26, 2019. ECF Nos. 5523, 5531. During the latter session, the  
 28 IPPs in the 22 States and the Defendants reached a settlement-in-principle to preserve the

1 settlements between the Defendants and the 22 States, without prejudicing either the ORS or  
2 NRS Subclasses. *See* ECF No. 5532. The IPPs in the 22 States and the Defendants are  
3 working to finalize the settlement-in-principle, including preparing papers to submit the  
4 settlement for this Court’s approval.

### 5 **III. ARGUMENT**

6 Rule 60(b)(6) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure “should only be applied in  
7 ‘extraordinary circumstances’” and when vacating a judgment “is appropriate to accomplish  
8 justice.” *Liljeberg*, 486 U.S. at 864 (quoting *Ackermann v. United States*, 340 U.S. 193  
9 (1950) and *Klapprott v. United States*, 335 U.S. 601, 614-15 (1949)). “The rule is to be  
10 utilized only where extraordinary circumstances prevented a party from taking timely action  
11 to prevent or correct an erroneous judgment.” *Haw. Cty. Green Party v. Clinton*, 124 F.  
12 Supp. 2d 1173, 1184 (D. Haw. 2000) (quoting *United States v. Alpine Land & Reservoir*,  
13 *Co.*, 984 F.2d 1047, 1049 (9th Cir. 1993)). Neither of those justifications is present here.  
14 *See Alpine Land*, 984 F.2d at 1049 (“Rule 60(b)(6) has been used sparingly as an equitable  
15 remedy to prevent manifest injustice.”).

#### 16 **A. There is No Justification for Granting the Motion to Vacate, Under Rule** 17 **60(b)(6) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure or Otherwise**

18 “[E]xtraordinary circumstances” are those where “circumstances beyond [the  
19 movant’s] control prevented timely action to protect its interests.” *Haw. Cty. Green Party*,  
20 124 F. Supp. 2d at 1184 (quoting *Alpine Land*, 984 F.2d at 1049). Such “extraordinary  
21 circumstances” have been found where there has been an intervening change in law (*see*  
22 *Phelps v. Alameida*, 569 F. 3d 1120, 1133 (9th Cir. 2009)), or where an attorney “virtually  
23 abandoned his client by failing to proceed with his client’s defense despite court orders to do  
24 so.” *Cnty. Dental Servs. v. Tani*, 282 F.3d 1164, 1170-71 (9th Cir. 2002). Such  
25 extraordinary circumstances are not present here. Indeed, the ORS Plaintiffs were able to  
26 protect their interests by filing objections to the settlement and fee approval orders,  
27 prosecuting appeals, and moving (and succeeding) to have subclass counsel appointed, which  
28 will allow them to have a seat at the court-ordered mediation before Magistrate Judge Corley.

1           Nevertheless, just as the parties are beginning to make progress in that court-ordered  
2 mediation, the ORS Plaintiffs needlessly move to undermine that process by seeking relief  
3 under Rule 60(b)(6), doing so by relying heavily on this Court’s November 8, 2018 order  
4 denying the IPPs’ Motion for an Indicative Ruling. Mot. at 7. Tellingly, the ORS Plaintiffs  
5 misstate the Rule 60(b)(6) standard and cite no authority that justifies such relief. The ORS  
6 Plaintiffs “do[] not satisfy the stringent standards for relief under Rule 60(b)(6).” *Haw. Cty.*  
7 *Green Party*, 124 F. Supp. 2d at 1185.

8           Moreover, granting the ORS Plaintiffs’ motion would not “accomplish justice.”  
9 *Liljeberg*, 486 U.S. at 864 (quoting *Klapprott*, 335 U.S. at 614-15). Granting the Motion to  
10 Vacate now, while the Defendants and the IPPs in the 22 States are working to amend and  
11 preserve the settlements, would accomplish just the opposite. *See Buck v. Davis*, 137 S. Ct.  
12 759, 778 (2017) (“In determining whether extraordinary circumstances are present, a court  
13 may consider a wide range of factors,” including “the risk of injustice to the parties”  
14 (quoting *Liljeberg*, 486 U.S. at 863-64)). The IPPs in the 22 States would be thrown back  
15 into litigation, further delaying, and possibly eliminating, their ability to recover from the  
16 settlement fund that has long been sitting in escrow. Even further, granting the ORS  
17 Plaintiffs’ motion will automatically trigger the disbursal of the \$576.75 million escrow fund  
18 (plus approximately \$14 million in accrued interest) back to the Defendants. *See, e.g.*,  
19 Philips Settlement at ¶17(h) (“If this Agreement does not receive final Court approval . . .  
20 then all amounts paid by Philips into the Settlement Fund . . . shall be returned to Philips  
21 from the Escrow Account by the Escrow Agent along with any interest accrued thereon  
22 within thirty (30) calendar days.”). Once those funds are disbursed there is no assurance that  
23 those funds will ever be available to plaintiffs through settlement or otherwise. The  
24 Defendants would also be returned to active litigation, completely stripped of the benefit of  
25 their over half-a-billion-dollar bargain and re-exposed to billions of dollars in potential  
26 liability, despite having litigated, negotiated, and mediated in good faith to resolve these  
27 claims. None of these eventualities would “accomplish justice.”  
28



1 The Court was correct to encourage a pragmatic solution to the issues before it and  
 2 thus should deny the ORS Plaintiffs' motion, which is anything but pragmatic. ECF No.  
 3 5499 (June 6, 2019 Hrg. Tr.) 45:17-19 ("But if there ever was a case in which pragmatism  
 4 was called for, it's this case. And if ever a time had arisen for pragmatism to be on the table,  
 5 it's now."). To ensure a practical outcome that does nothing to prejudice the ORS and NRS  
 6 Subclasses, the Defendants and the IPPs in the 22 States need a reasonable amount of time to  
 7 finalize their settlement-in-principle and prepare the approval papers that the Court  
 8 requested. ECF No. 5444 (Apr. 9, 2019 Hrg. Tr.) at 6:24-7:1 ("I think you bring me a  
 9 settlement. . . . You bring me one and then I decide whether it passes muster or not."). Once  
 10 submitted, as this Court is aware, it has the discretion to approve such a settlement. ECF No.  
 11 5499 (June 6, 2019 Hrg. Tr.) at 27:14-19 ("I'm familiar with the law that says that when  
 12 certain parties to a class action settlement agreement want to modify the agreement in a way  
 13 that affects their own rights and obligations but leaves the rights and obligations of remaining  
 14 class members or other parties intact, that that is permissible. I am aware of that law."); *see*  
 15 *also Belew v. Brink's Inc.*, 721 F. App'x 734, 735 (9th Cir. 2018) (affirming an order  
 16 approving a settlement agreement where the scope of that settlement's release was narrowed  
 17 to exclude unrelated claims, holding that "[s]horn of the release of the unrelated claims, the  
 18 district court's approval of the Joint Stipulation seems entirely appropriate").

19 Importantly, providing the Defendants and the IPPs in the 22 States with a reasonable  
 20 amount of time to finalize and submit their settlement will potentially allow a significant  
 21 portion of the IPP case to be resolved, which would constitute a prominent step towards  
 22 bringing this matter to its conclusion, goals that the Court itself has prized. ECF No. 5444  
 23 (Apr. 9, 2019 Hrg. Tr.) at 27:11-12 ("I like the case. I mean, I wish I could figure how to  
 24 finish it."); ECF No. 5499 (June 6, 2019 Hrg. Tr.) at 45:12-15 ("I would hope that . . . your  
 25 clients would see that bringing this whole thing to a conclusion sooner rather than later is in  
 26 everybody's interest."). Allowing the settlement process to continue without disruption will  
 27 also give the Court maximum flexibility when determining what notice, if any, will be  
 28 required in connection with the revised settlement, thereby avoiding unnecessary costs and



inefficiencies. With a negotiated settlement between the Defendants and the IPPs in the States so near at hand, the Court should avoid complicating the review and possible approval of that settlement. Indeed, granting the Motion to Vacate would stand at odds with established Ninth Circuit law for courts to encourage compromise settlements. *See Camacho v. City of San Luis*, 359 F. App'x 794, 796 (9th Cir. 2009) (providing that “the law favors and encourages compromise settlements” due to the “overriding public interest in settling and quieting litigation”); *see also In re Syncor ERISA Litig.*, 516 F.3d 1095, 1101 (9th Cir. 2008) (“[T]here is a strong judicial policy that favors settlements, particularly where complex class action litigation is concerned.”).

#### **B. ORS Plaintiffs’ Authorities are Inapposite**

Beyond misidentifying the standard to seek relief under Rule 60(b)(6) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure (Mot. at 7), the ORS Plaintiffs do not cite any authority justifying relief under that rule, let alone authority supporting overturning a settlement approval order when the very same settlements are currently the subject of court-ordered mediation.

In calling for the Court to vacate the order approving the settlement agreements, the ORS Plaintiffs point to *Reynolds v. Beneficial National Bank*, 288 F.3d 277, 282-284 (7th Cir. 2002), *Yoshioka v. Charles Schwab Corp.*, No. 11-1625-EMC, 2011 WL 6748984, at \*12 (N.D. Cal. Dec. 22, 2011), and *Daniels v. Aéropostale West, Inc.*, No. C 12-05755 WHA, 2014 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 74081, at \*8-10 (N.D. Cal. May 29, 2014). Mot. at 7-8 (Section III.A.). None of those cases discusses the application of Rule 60(b)(6) generally or specifically, let alone in the unique context of the instant case. Instead, each of the cases discusses issues that have been well briefed before the MDL Court and Ninth Circuit. Those cases and arguments do not, however, support the application of Rule 60(b)(6) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

The cases cited by the ORS Plaintiffs to vacate the order certifying the settlement classes are similarly deficient. *See* Mot. at 8-10.<sup>1</sup> None of them is in the context of Rule

<sup>1</sup> The inapposite cases cited in Section III.B of the Motion to Vacate are: *Molski v. Gleich*, 318 F.3d 937, 956 (9th Cir. 2003), *In re Payment Card Interchange Fee & Merch. Disc. Antitrust Litig.*, 827 F.3d 223, 231 (9th

60(b)(6) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, and none of them articulates how the instant case exhibits the “extraordinary circumstances” necessary to invoke the rule, or how justice would be accomplished if it was invoked. Moreover, because the settlement-in-principle carves out the ORS Plaintiffs’ claims from the scope of the releases, the ORS Plaintiffs’ concerns as to the adequacy of class representatives and counsel as to their interests under Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure will be rendered moot if the 22 States’ settlement is approved. *See* ECF No. 5535 (“The Court’s expressed concern was that NRS and ORS states might need separate representation. . . . [T]he Court has now appointed counsel for the ORS and NRS Subclasses. ECF No. 5518. The conflict problem the Court identified has now been abated.” (emphasis added)).

The cases cited by the ORS Plaintiffs to vacate the fee order are also inapposite. Mot. at 10-11 (Section III.C). As with every other case cited by the ORS Plaintiffs to vacate the orders at issue, none of them discusses Rule 60(b)(6) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, let alone establishes the “stringent standards” to seek relief under the rule. *Haw. Cty. Green Party*, 124 F. Supp. 2d at 1185. Moreover, because the order approving settlement should not be reversed, there is no corresponding basis to disturb the order approving attorneys’ fees. *See, e.g., Radcliffe v. Experian Info. Sols.*, 715 F.3d 1157, 1167–68 (9th Cir. 2013) (reversing the awards of attorneys’ fees and costs “[b]ecause we reverse the settlement”).

\* \* \*

Cir. 2010), *Amchem Prods., Inc. v. Windsor*, 521 U.S. 591, 621-22 (1997), *Ortiz v. Fibreboard Corp.*, 527 U.S. 815, 858 (1999), *Radcliffe v. Experian Info. Solutions, Inc.*, 715 F.3d 1157, 1168 (9th Cir. 2013), *General Tel. Co. of S.W. v. Falcon*, 457 U.S. 147, 161 (1982), *Dewey v. Volkswagen Aktiengesellschaft*, 681 F.3d 170, 183 (3d Cir. 2012), *Lightbourne v. Printroom, Inc.*, 307 F.R.D. 593, 604 (C.D. Cal. 2015), *In re Joint Eastern & Southern District Asbestos Litig.*, 982 F.2d 721, 743 (2d Cir. 1992), *In re Motor Fuel Temperature Sales Practices Litig.*, 271 F.R.D. 263, 283, 296 (D. Kan. 2010), and *Her v. Regions Fin. Corp.*, No. 2:07-CV-2017-RTD, 2007 WL 28006558, at \*2 (W.D. Ark. Sept. 25, 2007).

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**IV. CONCLUSION**

For the foregoing reasons Defendants respectfully request that the Court deny the ORS Plaintiffs' Motion to Vacate or, in the alternative, hold in abeyance until Magistrate Judge Corley completes her work.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: August 2, 2019

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<sup>2</sup> MT Picture Display Co., Ltd. has been dissolved and completed final liquidation proceedings in Japan on May 23, 2019.

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Washington, DC 20005

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**E-FILING ATTESTATION**

I, Christopher M. Curran, am the ECF User whose ID and password are being used to file this document. In compliance with Civil Local Rule 5-1(i)(3), I hereby attest that each of the signatories identified above has concurred in this filing.

/s/ Christopher M. Curran

Christopher M. Curran

DEFENDANTS' OPPOSITION TO MOTION TO VACATE ORDERS AND JUDGMENT CERTIFYING  
SETTLEMENT CLASS, APPROVING SETTLEMENT AND AWARDED ATTORNEYS' FEES (DKT. 4712,  
4717, 4740)

Case No. 3:07-cv-05944-JST, MDL No. 1917